

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /012 R

DRAFTED BY A/SY:VFST.MARS:JBH

APPROVED BY A/SY:VHDIKEOS

ARA/MGT - KACKERMAN

SY/MGT - JTERRANOVA

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R 011654Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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FOR AMB. BREWSTER FROM DASS DIKEOS; PANAMA FOR RSS ELLIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, ASEC

SUBJECT: RSO POSITION QUITO

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH JOHN ELLIS, REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR FOR ARA, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE FULL-TIME SERVICES OF A RESIDENT RSO IN QUITO MAY NOT BE REQUIRED FOLLOWING MEL HARRISON'S TRANSFER THIS SUMMER. ELLIS BELIEVES THAT SINCE CONTINGENCY PLANS, SECURITY SURVEYS, MSG TRAINING AND RELATED PROJECTS FOR BOTH QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL ARE, OR WILL BE, CURRENT AT THE CLOSE OF HARRISON'S TOUR, AND BARRING ANY SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION IN LOCAL SECURITY CONDITIONS, ADEQUATE SECURITY COVERAGE IN ECUADOR CAN BE PROVIDED EFFECTIVELY FROM A NEIGHBORING SECURITY REGION - EITHER BOGOTA OR LIMA.

2. AS YOU CAN APPRECIATE, INCREASING INCIDENTS OF TERROR-IST ACTIVITY AGAINST AMERICAN TARGETS INTERNATIONALLY HAVE PLACED INCREASINGLY HEAVY DEMANDS ON OUR SECURITY

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OFFICER RESOURCES. THIS CONDITION REQUIRES THAT WE CON-

TINUALLY REVIEW OUR OVERSEAS PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS TO
MEET NEW AND EXPANDING REQUIREMENTS.

3. BEFORE UNDERTAKING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE QUITO
RSO POSITION, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS

FOLLOWING A RE-ASSESSMENT OF YOUR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.
IN MAKING THIS REQUEST, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE IN NO
WAY WISH TO DEPRIVE YOUR POSTS OF NECESSARY SECURITY
OFFICER ATTENTION. IF, IN YOUR JUDGMENT, A FULL-TIME
RESIDENT SECURITY OFFICER POSITION IS JUSTIFIED, I AM
PREPARED TO REPLACE HARRISON WITH AN OFFICER IN WHOM WE
HAVE EQUAL CONFIDENCE. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU CONCLUDE
THAT LESS THAN FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICER
COVERAGE WILL PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF COVERAGE, I
WILL ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR POSTS TO A NEIGHBORING
RSO AND INSIST THAT YOUR REQUIREMENTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
TIMELY ATTENTION.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A TELEGRAPHIC REPLY AT
YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE049412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VFST.MARS:JBH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-0291
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603107/aaaadqIt.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RSO POSITION QUITO
TAGS: APER, ASEC
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006